

## **Worship at home – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021**

### **Key Scriptures: Mark 1:21-28**

#### **Key Themes:**

##### *Making an impression*

This is the first thing Jesus does in Mark's Gospel, and it is dramatic: he cures a man of an "unclean spirit". He is presenting himself from the start as someone who will be different and who will make a difference. Both Jesus' teaching and his actions reveal that he is the "Holy One of God", and the word begins to spread about him.

#### **Call to Worship:**

Happy and blessed are those who walk in wisdom. Come let us seek the authority and wisdom of the Lord in our reverence and worship of him.

**Amen**

#### **Hymn: When Jesus the healer passed through Galilee**

1. When Jesus the healer passed through Galilee,  
Heal us, heal us today!  
the deaf came to hear and the blind came to see.  
Heal us, Lord Jesus.

2. A paralyzed man was let down through a roof.  
Heal us, heal us today!  
His sins were forgiven, his walking the proof.  
Heal us, Lord Jesus.

3. The death of his daughter caused Jairus to weep.  
Heal us, heal us today!  
The Lord took her hand, and he raised her from sleep.  
Heal us, Lord Jesus.

4. When blind Bartimaeus cried out to the Lord,  
Heal us, heal us today!  
his faith made him whole and his sight was restored.  
Heal us, Lord Jesus.

5. The lepers were healed and the demons cast out.  
Heal us, heal us today!  
A bent woman straightened to laugh and to shout.  
Heal us, Lord Jesus.

6. The twelve were commissioned and sent out in twos,  
Heal us, heal us today!  
to make the sick whole and to spread the good news.  
Heal us, Lord Jesus.

7. There is still so much sickness and suffering today.  
Heal us, heal us today!  
We gather together for healing, and pray:  
Heal us, Lord Jesus.

**Prayers:****Adoration:**

Father God, holy and majestic, what an impression faith in you has made on our lives! God of all wisdom, you are the source of all authority in heaven and earth. Compassionate Lord Jesus, what an indelible impression you have made on our spirit! Lovingly speaking through your life on earth: your sacrificial authority on the cross breaking through the barriers of sin. Awesome Holy Spirit, what an impression you make on our life! Through our faith, you continue to impress upon us the supreme wisdom of God, Gracious and Fair. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, source of all authority in heaven and on earth.

**Prayer of Confession:**

O God, when Jesus preached in the synagogue, everyone was astonished by the absolute authority of his words and presence. In today's world, it is so easy to be taken in by someone's words or their favourable, commanding presence. We think, perhaps, of people in the media, the music scene and social networks. But, unfortunately, not everyone's words have integrity or match their actions. O God, help us to discern who to give credence to.

Forgive us when our own words or actions don't marry with our calling. Help us also, O God, not to jump to conclusions by first impressions, preconceptions or prejudices – anything that turns us against people who don't quite fit our expectations of them. Yet you may wish to speak through them.

Forgive us when we jump to wrong conclusions.

Forgive us for judging.

Help us to seek your wisdom, to see and hear you in all people regardless of age, appearance or background.

In Jesus' name we pray

**Amen.**

**Assurance of forgiveness:**

Lord Jesus, we were all imprisoned in slavery by sin until, by the power of the cross, you set us free. You defeated evil and triumphed over death. By the authority of your holy name, we can now freely approach God's throne knowing our sins are forgiven.

Praise you, Jesus.

**Amen.**

**Psalms 111**

Praise the LORD!

I thank the LORD with all my heart  
in the assembly of his good people.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD does wonderful things,  
more than anyone could ask for.

<sup>3</sup> The things he does are great and glorious!  
There is no end to his goodness.

<sup>4</sup> He does amazing things so that we will remember  
that the LORD is kind and merciful.

<sup>5</sup> He gives food to his followers.

- He remembers his agreement forever.
- <sup>6</sup> He has shown his people how powerful he is  
by giving them the land of other nations.
- <sup>7</sup> Everything he does is good and fair.  
All his commands can be trusted.
- <sup>8</sup> His commands will continue forever.  
They must be done with truth and honesty.
- <sup>9</sup> He rescued his people and made his agreement with them forever.  
His name is awesome and holy.
- <sup>10</sup> Wisdom begins with fear and respect for the LORD.  
Those who obey him are very wise.  
Praises will be sung to him forever.

### **Reflection:**

Praise the Lord.

Give thanks to him for all he had done.

Right now, as we are going through lockdown 3 it might seem to some of us some of the time that God is a long way off.

I guess most people across the country have 'had enough' now.

We want to return to a world where we do not have to keep a 2m distance and where we can see and hug those we love.

However, for now we must thank God for what we have.

We have our church family, which is so much more than the building we meet in.

We have the hope of the vaccine, which many of you have already have.

And we have the hope and the promise that through everything, even Covid-19 God is faithful and can be trusted.

### **Reading: Mark 1:21-28 - Jesus Frees a Man From an Evil Spirit**

<sup>21</sup> Jesus and his followers went to Capernaum. On the Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue and taught the people. <sup>22</sup> They were amazed at his teaching. He did not teach like their teachers of the law. He taught like someone with authority. <sup>23</sup> While Jesus was in the synagogue, a man was there who had an evil spirit inside him. The man shouted, <sup>24</sup> "Jesus of Nazareth! What do you want with us? Did you come to destroy us? I know who you are—God's Holy One!"

<sup>25</sup> Jesus, his voice full of warning, said, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> The evil spirit made the man shake. Then the spirit made a loud noise and came out of him.

<sup>27</sup> The people were amazed. They asked each other, "What is happening here? This man is teaching something new, and he teaches with authority! He even commands evil spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> So the news about Jesus spread quickly everywhere in the area of Galilee.

### **Reflection:**

- Mark has described how Jesus drew his team together, and now he tells us about the beginning of his active ministry.
- Jesus' first act is, in some respects, very traditional.
- Mark tells us nothing of what he said, but he does record the great impression he made on the congregation.
- Jesus' teaching is clearly more authoritative than most.

- It carries conviction and leaves people feeling that they had heard the ‘word of the Lord’
- Jesus’ words chime with his actions.
- His powerful words lead to a word of power as he overcomes the unclean spirit that is tormenting the man.
- Jesus is able to defeat the spirit with one word, in Greek: Silence!
- Mark is quick to emphasise the impact this had on the congregation – they are amazed and there is a hubbub of conversation as they discuss what they have seen.
- Jesus makes an impression on the people around him.
- I wonder what impression people might have of us.
- Will people outside our immediate circles know that we are Christians - that we follow Jesus Christ.
- Will they know us by the words we say or don’t say.
- Will we be known by the actions we take.
- Particularly at this time when life is a bit of a struggle for everyone can we make an impression as people of hope.
- As people that are looking out for those around us.
- Following the rules of lockdown.
- Calling people on the phone.
- Praying in the silence of our heart for those that are finding it tough right now – we don’t have to look very far.
- Let us this week try to make an impression on people so that they might know that we belong to Christ.

**Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession:***

We pray to God, who is always ready – for those overtaken with demands.

**Give rest, O Lord.**

For those overburdened with anxieties, particularly at this time of a second lockdown.

**Give rest, O Lord.**

For those overcome with debt.

**Give relief, O Lord.**

For those oppressed by powers that despise them.

**Give salvation, O Lord.**

For those in situations they cannot see a way out of.

**Give freedom, O Lord.**

For those in need of hope, particularly in these days of COVID-19.

**Give hope, O lord.**

We pray for those we know who are sick, lonely or in need of our prayers at this time, we think particularly of:

Brain Margetts – Dalwood  
Gill and Geoff Nicholas - Axminster  
**Amen**

***Hymn: Jesus Christ is waiting,***

*Verse 1*

Jesus Christ is waiting,  
Waiting in the streets;  
No one is his neighbour,  
All alone he eats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I am lonely too.  
Make me, friend or stranger,  
Fit to wait on you

*Verse 2*

Jesus Christ is raging,  
Raging in the streets,  
Where injustice spirals  
And real hope retreats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I am angry too.  
In the Kingdom's causes  
Let me rage with you.

*Verse 3*

Jesus Christ is healing,  
Healing in the streets;  
Curing those who suffer,  
Touching those he greets.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I have pity too.  
Let my care be active,  
Healing just like you.

*Verse 4*

Jesus Christ is dancing,  
Dancing in the streets,  
Where each sign of hatred  
He, with love, defeats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I should triumph too.  
On suspicion's graveyard  
Let me dance with you.

*Verse 5*

Jesus Christ is calling,  
Calling in the streets,  
"Who will join my journey?  
I will guide their feet."

Listen, Lord Jesus,  
Let my fears be few.  
Walk one step before me;  
I will follow you.

Blessing:

Lord, as we continue our journey with you this week, as we seek to live out our faith every day, be with us, surprise with your love, nudge us when you want us to see or do something new – for Jesus' sake.

Amen